

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 21, 2009. Claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, 68-70, 91, and 94 have been amended. Claims 43-45, 50, 51, 59, 61-63, 67-75, 82-87, and 91-94 are currently pending. No new matter has been added. Attached is a marked-up copy of the claims to show the amendments made in this paper.

Recapture

Claims 43-45, 50, 51, 59, 61-63, 67-75, 82-87, and 91-94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. The Applicant traverses this rejection.

The Applicant has incorporated elements from original patent application claims 40 and 45 into the present independent claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, 70, 91, and 94. During the prosecution of the patent, patent application claims 40 and 45 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 40 and 45 were then rewritten in independent form as patent application claims 74 and 75 and issued as patent claims 30 and 35. Thus, the elements of patent application claims 40 and 45 were relied upon by the Applicant to obtain allowance of patent claims 30 and 35.

Original patent application claim 40 reads as follows:

40. The mounting device according to Claim 38 wherein the base takes the form of a second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface thereon, the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof, and the mounting device further comprises means forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in the faces of the respective arm sections which have substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof that are rotatably engageable with the second coupling member at the outer peripheral surface thereof in the respective positions of the bifurcated arm assembly lying between the third and first positions thereof inclusive, and which progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the outer peripheral surface thereof to interlock the bifurcated arm assembly with the second coupling member when the pair of arm sections is reciprocated in relation to one another in the direction of the second position of the bifurcated arm assembly from the first position thereof.

Original patent application claim 45 reads as follows:

45. The mounting device according to Claim 38 wherein the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof, and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture, which are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.

The new independent claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, 70, 91, and 94 of this reissue application incorporate the elements of either original patent application claim 40 or original patent application claim 45 which were rewritten in independent form and became patent claims 30 and 35. Inclusion of the elements of either patent application claim 40 or patent application claim 45 obviates a rejection based on recapture because the Applicant has incorporated the subject matter relied upon by the Applicant to obtain allowance of a claim in the original patent. In the Tables below, the independent claims are compared to the relevant portions of patent claims 30 and 35.

Reissue claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, and 70 incorporate the relevant portion (corresponding the original application claim 45) of original patent claim 35. The following Tables compare reissue claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, and 70 to the relevant portion of original patent claim 35. The Tables demonstrate that reissue claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, and 70 incorporate the elements of the relevant portion of original patent claim 35 that was relied upon by the Applicant to make claim 35 allowable.

Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)	Reissue Claim 43
the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,	a coupling member ... having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof; ...

and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,	the first sockets ... having rims formed thereabout at the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections ... ,
which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.	which together are greater in width than the neck so that the arm sections can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the coupling member ...

Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)	Reissue Claim 50
the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,	a coupling member ... having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof ...
and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,	the first sockets ... having rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections,

<p>which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.</p>	<p>which together are greater in width than the neck portion so that the rigid arm sections can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck portion of the first coupling member ...</p>
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<p>Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)</p>	<p>Reissue Claim 59</p>
<p>the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,</p>	<p>a coupling member ... having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof ...</p>
<p>and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,</p>	<p>the sockets having rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections,</p>
<p>which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.</p>	<p>which together are greater in width than the neck portion so that the arm assembly can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck portion of the coupling member</p>

Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)	Reissue Claim 61
the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,	a coupling member ... having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof ...
and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,	the sockets having rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture of the arm sections,
which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.	which together are greater in width than the neck so that the arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the coupling member ...

Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)	Reissue Claim 63
the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,	a coupling member ... having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof ...
and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,	the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm

	sections,
which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.	which together are greater in width than the neck portion so that the split arm assembly can be rotated about the first locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck portion of the coupling member ...

Patent Claim 35 (Original Patent Application Claim 45)	Reissue Claim 70
the first coupling member having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof,	a coupling member comprising ... a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof ...
and the first sockets having rims formed thereabout in the faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at the plane of the line of juncture,	the first sockets comprising rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture of the arm sections,
which together are greater in width than the neck so that the bifurcated arm assembly can be rotated about the locus of the first coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the first coupling member.	which together are greater in width than the neck of the coupling member so that the arm sections can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the line of juncture extends at right angles to the neck of the coupling member ...

Reissue claims 91 and 94 incorporate the relevant portion (corresponding the original application claim 40) of original patent claim 30. The following Tables compare reissue claims 91 and 94 to the relevant portion of original patent claim 30. The Tables demonstrate that reissue claims 91 and 94 incorporate the elements of the relevant portion of original patent claim 30 that was relied upon by the Applicant to make claim 30 allowable. It should be noted that there is some difference between the structure of patent claim 30 and reissue claims 91 and 94 due to the fact that patent claim 30 is directed to an apparatus and reissue claims 91 and 94 are method claims. In addition, the “means forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets ...” has been narrowed to specifically recite “a plurality of arm sections, ... at least two of the arm sections forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets....”

Patent Claim 30 (Original Patent Application Claim 40)	Reissue Claim 91
and the base takes the form of a second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof, the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof,	a base taking a form of a second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface thereon, the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof ...
and the mounting device further comprises means forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in the faces of the respective arm sections which have substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof	a plurality of arm sections, ... at least two of the arm sections forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in faces of the respective arm sections, the ... second sockets comprising substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at inner peripheries thereof

that are rotatably engageable with the second coupling member at the outer peripheral surface thereof in the respective positions of the bifurcated arm assembly lying between the third and first positions thereof inclusive,	adjusting the adjustable clamp between a third position and a first position so that ... the second sockets and second coupling member are rotatably engaged at the outer peripheral surface thereof;
and which progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the surface thereof to interlock the bifurcated arm assembly with the second coupling member when the pair of arm sections are reciprocated in relation to one another in the direction of the second position of the bifurcated arm assembly from the first position thereof.	adjusting the adjustable clamp in the direction of a second position from the first position so that ... the second sockets progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the outer peripheral surface thereof to interlock the arm sections with the second coupling member by reciprocating the arm sections in relation to one another.

Patent Claim 30 (Original Patent Application Claim 40)	Reissue Claim 94
and the base takes the form of a second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof, the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof,	a base taking a form of a second coupling member, the second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof ..., the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof;

and the mounting device further comprises means forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in the faces of the respective arm sections which have substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at the inner peripheries thereof	a plurality of arm sections, ... at least two of the arm sections forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets in faces of the respective arm sections which have substantially smooth part spherical surfaces at inner peripheries thereof; and
that are rotatably engageable with the second coupling member at the outer peripheral surface thereof in the respective positions of the bifurcated arm assembly lying between the third and first positions thereof inclusive,	adjusting the adjustable clamp between a third position and a first position so that the second sockets and second coupling member are rotatably engaged at the outer peripheral surface thereon;
and which progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the surface thereof to interlock the bifurcated arm assembly with the second coupling member when the pair of arm sections are reciprocated in relation to one another in the direction of the second position of the bifurcated arm assembly from the first position thereof.	adjusting the adjustable clamp in the direction of a second position from the first position so that ... the second sockets progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the outer peripheral surface thereof to interlock the plurality of arm sections with the second coupling member when the arm sections are reciprocated toward each other;

¹Please note that the order of the two elements of claim 94 in the last two boxes of this table are reversed in claim 94. The presentation in this table is to facilitate comparison to the relevant portion of patent claim 30.

The preceding Tables compare claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, 70, 91, and 94 to the relevant portions of patent claims 30 and 35 and demonstrate that there is no recapture. The Office Action, at page 3, appears to suggest that each claim must include the relevant portions of both claims 30 and 35. This is not correct. To avoid recapture, a new claim must only include the relevant portion of one of the original patent claims.

The Applicant respectfully requests that if the recapture rejection of the present claims is maintained that the next Office Action indicate specifically the basis for maintaining the rejection over the present claims and, in particular, indicate what subject matter of claims 40 and 45 is believed not be included in the present claims.

For at least these reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 43, 50, 59, 61, 63, 70, 91, and 94, as well as the remainder of the claims which depend therefrom, do not recapture claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of these claims

Defective Oath/Declaration

The Reissue Declaration was rejected because it did not identify the error not correct in the earlier reissue application. A Supplemental Reissue Declaration accompanies this paper and includes further specification of an error that is being corrected. The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 43-45, 50, 51, 59, 61-63, 67-75, 82-87, and 91-94 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 58-74 of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/991,325. Although the Applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/991,325 accompanies this paper to facilitate prosecution.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the Applicant's representative, Bruce Black, by telephone to discuss the matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS INDICATING CURRENT AMENDMENTS

43. (Twice Amended) An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface and having a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to the part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof;

first and second arm sections formed with operatively opposed first sockets in respective first end portions thereof, the first sockets having opposing concave interior faces shaped to substantially conform to the substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface of the coupling member, and having rims formed thereabout at the faces of the respective ~~first sockets~~ arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections, which together are greater in width than the neck so that the arm sections can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the ~~arm sections~~ line of juncture extends at [[a]] right angles to the neck of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp configured and arranged to provide a plurality of different adjustment relationships to the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets in an interlocking relationship with the coupling member, wherein the opposing concave interior faces of the first sockets radially compress and deform at least a portion of the resilient deformable material of the coupling member.

44. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 43, further comprising:

a second coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface and having a projection extending outside the resilient deformable material; and

operatively opposed second sockets formed in respective second end portions of the first and second relatively rigid arm sections and having opposing concave interior faces shaped to

substantially conform to the substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface of the second coupling member; and

wherein:

the adjustable clamp is configured and arranged to provide a plurality of adjustment relationships to the opposing concave interior faces of the second sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the second sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the second coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing concave interior faces of the second sockets in an interlocking relationship with the second coupling member, wherein the opposing concave interior faces of the second sockets radially compress and deform at least a portion of the resilient deformable material of the second coupling member.

45. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 44, further comprising a spring disposed between the first and second relatively rigid arm sections, wherein the adjustable clamp, in combination with the spring, is configured and arranged to apply differential clamping forces between the first and second sockets.

46. - 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Twice Amended) An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member having a radially compressible material formed in a substantially smooth spherical shape, the coupling member ~~further comprising~~ having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof and extending outside of the radially compressible material, ~~the neck portion having a reduced diameter relative to the substantially smooth spherical shape;~~

a plurality of first sockets formed in respective rigid arm sections, the first sockets having substantially smooth concave radial surfaces and having rims formed thereabout in faces of the respective arm sections, and with indentations formed in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections, which together are greater in width than the neck portion so that the rigid arm sections can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular

orientations in which the ~~rigid arm sections~~ line of juncture extends at [[a]] right angles to the neck portion of the first coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp mechanically attached to the rigid arm sections and configured and arranged to position the first sockets in a plurality of opposing relationships to one another,

one adjustment of the clamp positioning the first sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and relatively rotatable thereto, and

an other adjustment of the clamp positioning the first sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and compressing the radially compressible material thereof, such that the first sockets substantially compress the coupling member and interlock the first sockets with the coupling member in a relative angular orientation.

51. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 50, further comprising:

a second coupling member having a radially compressible material formed in a substantially smooth spherical shape, the second coupling member further comprising a projection extending outside of the radially compressible material;

second sockets having substantially smooth concave surfaces; and wherein:

the one adjustment of the clamp positioning the second sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the second coupling member and relatively rotatable thereto, and

the other adjustment of the clamp positioning the second sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the second coupling member and compressing the radially compressible material thereof to interlock the second sockets with the second coupling member in a relative angular orientation.

52. - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (Twice Amended) An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material in a substantially smooth part globular shape and having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof and extending outside the globular shape, the neck portion having a reduced diameter relative to the globular shape of the coupling member;

an arm assembly formed of at least two arm sections, the arm assembly having sockets formed in opposing interior surfaces thereof, the sockets being shaped to substantially conform to the substantially smooth part globular shape of the coupling member, the sockets having rims formed thereabout ~~at the surfaces in faces~~ of the respective arm sections and ~~having an indentations formed therein in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections,~~ which together ~~[[is]]~~ are greater in width than the neck portion so that the arm assembly can be rotated about a locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the ~~arm assembly~~ line of juncture extends at ~~[[a]]~~ right angles to the neck portion of the coupling member;

an adjustable clamp configured and arranged to provide a plurality of different adjustment relationships to the opposing interior surfaces of the sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing interior surfaces of the sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the opposing interior surfaces of the sockets in an interlocking relationship with the coupling member.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Twice Amended) An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member having a radially compressible material formed in a substantially unbroken spherical shape and having a ~~projection~~ reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof and extending outside of the spherical shape;

an arm assembly formed of at least two arm sections having sockets formed in opposing interior surfaces thereof, the sockets each having substantially smooth concave surfaces, the sockets having rims formed thereabout ~~at the surfaces in faces~~ of the respective arm sections and ~~one of the sockets having an indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture of the arm sections, formed therein~~ which ~~[[is]]~~ together are greater in width than the ~~projection neck of the coupling member~~ so that the arm assembly ~~is rotatable~~ can be rotated about the locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the ~~arm assembly~~ line of juncture extends at ~~[[a]]~~ right angles to the ~~projection neck~~ of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp mechanically attached to the respective arm sections and configured and arranged to position the sockets in a plurality of opposing relationships to one another,

one adjustment of the clamp positioning the sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and relatively rotatable thereto, and

another adjustment of the clamp positioning the sockets in an opposing relationship on either side of the coupling member and compressing the radially compressible material thereof to interlock the sockets with the coupling member in a relative angular orientation.

62. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 43 wherein the coupling member is substantially centered on a first locus; and

the first and second arm sections form a bifurcated arm assembly having an apex at a second locus spaced apart from the first locus and having the first sockets substantially centered on the first locus and engaged about the coupling member.

63. (Twice Amended) An interlocking ball and socket joint comprising:

a coupling member partially formed of a resilient deformable material in a substantially smooth part spherical shape centered on a first locus and having a reduced diameter neck portion at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof and extending outside the spherical shape;

a split arm assembly comprising at least two arm sections and having first sockets formed of opposing concave interior surfaces centered on the first locus, the opposing concave interior surfaces being shaped to substantially conform to the substantially smooth part spherical shape of the coupling member and being engaged about the coupling member, the first sockets having rims formed thereabout at the surfaces in faces of the respective arm sections, and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture between the arm sections, the indentations which together are greater in width than the neck portion so that the split arm assembly is rotatable can be rotated about the first locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the split arm assembly line of juncture extends at [[a]] right angles to the neck portion of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to the split arm assembly, the adjustable clamp being configured and arranged to provide a plurality of different adjustment relationships to the first sockets,

one adjustment of the clamp conforming the first sockets in a relatively rotational relationship with the coupling member, and

another adjustment of the clamp conforming the first sockets in an interlocking relationship with the coupling member.

64 - 66. (Canceled)

67. The interlocking ball and socket joint of claim 43 wherein the adjustable clamp further comprises mutually engageable internally and externally threaded members.

68. (Twice Amended) ~~The mounting device interlocking ball and socket joint~~ according to claim 67 wherein the externally threaded member further comprises a threaded rod, and the mutually engageable internally and externally threaded members are structured for relative rotational motion for moving the internally threaded member along a length of the externally threaded member.

69. (Amended) ~~The mounting device interlocking ball and socket joint~~ according to claim 68 wherein the internally threaded member further comprises a knob.

70. (Amended) A mounting device, comprising:

a coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a reduced diameter neck at a side thereof opposed to a part spherical outer peripheral surface thereof and extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

a plurality of arm sections, at least two of the arm sections forming first sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections, the first sockets comprising rims formed thereabout in [[at]] faces of the first sockets respective arm sections, the rims defining and indentations in the respective rims thereof at a plane of a line of juncture of the arm sections, which together are greater in width ~~than a width of~~ the neck of the coupling member so that the arm sections can be rotated about a

locus of the coupling member to angular orientations in which the ~~arm sections~~ line of juncture extends at [[a]] right angles to the neck of the coupling member; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to at least two of the plurality of arm sections, the adjustable clamp being configured and arranged to provide a plurality of positions, wherein, in a first position of the adjustable clamp, the first sockets and first coupling member are rotatably engaged, and in a second position of the adjustable clamp, the first sockets and first coupling member are interlocked, with the first sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the first coupling member.

71. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the arm sections are not all identically shaped.

72. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the first sockets are two opposing first sockets.

73. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein a first one of the arm sections is smaller than a second one of the arm sections and wherein the first one and the second one of the arm sections form the first sockets.

74. The mounting device of claim 73, wherein the first one of the arm sections is hingedly secured to the second one of the arm sections.

75. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the mounting device comprises at least three arm sections.

76 - 81. (Cancelled)

82. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the resilient deformable material of the coupling member is an elastomeric material.

83. The mounting device of claim 82, wherein the elastomeric material comprises nitrile rubber.

84. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the head of the coupling member has a Shore A durometer of between 30-100.

85. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the head of the coupling member has a Shore D hardness of between 40 and 70.

86. The mounting device of claim 70, wherein the coupling member further comprises a disc-shaped base coupled to the neck.

87. The mounting device of claim 86, wherein the disc-shaped base of the coupling member defines three openings in the base forming an equilateral triangle.

88 - 90. (Canceled)

91. (Amended) A method of operating a mounting device, the method comprising: providing a mounting device comprising

a first coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

a base ~~comprising taking a form of~~ a second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface thereon, the second coupling member is also compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof, the second coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head; the spherical head comprising a substantially smooth outer surface of resilient deformable material;

a plurality of arm sections, at least two of the arm sections forming first sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections and at least two of the arm sections forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets at end portions in faces of the respective arm sections, the first and second sockets comprising substantially smooth part spherical interior surfaces at inner peripheries thereof; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to at least two of the plurality of arm sections;

adjusting the adjustable clamp between a third position and a first position so that the first sockets and first coupling member are rotatably engaged and the second sockets and second coupling member are rotatably engaged at the outer peripheral surface thereof; and

adjusting the adjustable clamp in the direction of a second position from the first position so that the first sockets and first coupling member are interlocked, with the first sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the first coupling member, and the second sockets [[and]] progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the outer peripheral surface thereof to interlock the arm sections with the second coupling member by reciprocating the arm sections in relation to one another are interlocked, ~~with the second sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the second coupling member.~~

92. The method of claim 91, further comprising adjusting the adjustable clamp so that the first sockets and first coupling member are interlocked, with the first sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the first coupling member, and the second sockets and second coupling member are rotatably engaged.

93. The method of claim 91, further comprising adjusting the adjustable clamp so that the first sockets and first coupling member are rotatably engaged, but the first coupling member is not removable from the first sockets, and then removing the second coupling member from the second sockets.

94. (Amended) A method of operating a mounting device, the method comprising:
providing a mounting device comprising

a first coupling member comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending from the head, the spherical head comprising a resilient deformable material;

a base ~~comprising~~ taking a form of a second coupling member, the second coupling member having a substantially smooth part spherical outer peripheral surface thereon which forms the outer periphery thereof comprising a substantially spherical head and a neck extending ~~therefrom the head,~~ the second coupling member is also

~~compressible radially thereof at the outer peripheral surface thereof spherical head comprising a resilient deformable material;~~

a plurality of arm sections, at least two of the arm sections forming first sockets at end portions of the respective arm sections and at least two of the arm sections forming a pair of operatively opposing second sockets at end portions in faces of the respective arm sections, ~~the first and second sockets comprising which have~~ substantially smooth interior part spherical surfaces at inner peripheries thereof; and

an adjustable clamp coupled to at least two of the plurality of arm sections; adjusting the adjustable clamp so that the first sockets and first coupling member are interlocked, with the first sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the first coupling member, and the second sockets ~~[[and]] progressively seize the second coupling member by compressing and deforming the outer peripheral surface thereof to interlock the plurality of arm sections with the second coupling member when the arm sections are reciprocated toward each other are interlocked, with the second sockets deforming the resilient deformable material of the head of the second coupling member;~~

adjusting the adjustable clamp between a third position and a first position so that the second sockets and second coupling member are rotatably engaged at the outer peripheral surface thereon; and

adjusting the adjustable clamp in the direction of a second position from the first position so that the first sockets and first coupling member are rotatably engaged, wherein the first coupling member is not removable from the first sockets and the second coupling member is removable from the second sockets.